

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1. (Currently Amended)** A digital content distribution system comprising:
 - a right management server and a user terminal which are connected via a transmission line, wherein said right management server includes:
 - a usage right information issuing unit operable to issue usage right information indicating a usage rule of content which is a digital copyrighted work to said user terminal; and
 - an update information notifying unit operable to notify said user terminal of update information ~~regarding necessity of or identifying a timing at which said user terminal is to access said right management server and request updating of~~ the usage right information issued to said user terminal, and
 - said user terminal includes:
 - a content storing unit operable to store the content;
 - a usage right information storing unit operable to store the usage right information issued by said usage right information issuing unit;
 - a using unit operable to use the content stored in said content storing unit, in accordance with the usage rule indicated by the usage right information ~~stored in said usage right information storing unit and regardless of the update information notified by said update information notifying unit~~; and
 - an update requesting unit operable to ~~identify the timing in accordance with the update information, regardless of the usage rule indicated by the usage right information, and to request, at the timing, said right management server to update the usage right information stored in said usage right information storing unit, in accordance with the update information notified by said update information notifying unit.~~
- 2. (Currently Amended)** The digital content distribution system according to Claim 1, wherein said update information notifying unit is further operable to notify said user terminal of the update information by including the update information in the usage right information issued by said usage right information issuing unit.
- 3. (Canceled)**

4. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 2,
wherein the update information includes information regarding a frequency at
which said user terminal ~~should~~is to access said right management server, and
said update requesting unit is further operable to access said right management
server at the frequency indicated by the update information and to request said right
management server to update the usage right information.

5. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 2,
wherein the update information includes a flag showing whether or not said user
terminal ~~should~~is to access said right management server, and
said update requesting unit is further operable to access said right management
server in accordance with the flag and to request said right management server to update
the usage right information.

6. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 1,
wherein the usage right information includes an identifier ~~to identify itself for~~
identification, and
the update information includes the identifier of the usage right information which
is an object to be updated.

7. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 6,
comprising a plurality of user terminals,
wherein said update information notifying unit is further operable to specify, for
each user terminal, the usage right information which is the object to be updated from
among sets of the usage right information held by said user terminal, to create the update
information including the identifier of the specified usage right information, and to notify
said user terminal of the created update information.

8. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 6,
comprising a plurality of user terminals,

wherein said update information notifying unit is further operable to specify, for each user terminal, the usage right information which is the object to be updated from among sets of the usage right information held by all of said plurality of user terminals, to create the update information including the identifier of the specified usage right information, and to notify said user terminal of the created update information.

9. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 1,

wherein:

said right management server further includes an update data transmitting unit operable to transmit, to said user terminal, data for usage right information update that is used for updating the usage right information held by said user terminal to a latest usage right information when receiving a request to update the usage right information from said user terminal; ;

said user terminal further includes an updating unit operable to receive the data for usage right information update that is transmitted from said right management server, to read the usage right information corresponding to the received data for usage right information update from said usage right information storing unit, and to update the read usage right information; ; and

said using unit is further operable to use the content stored in said content storing unit in accordance with the usage rule indicated by the updated read usage right information.

10. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 9,

wherein:

the usage right information includes an identifier to identify itself, for identification;

said update requesting unit is further operable to request an update by notifying said right management server of the identifier of the usage right information which is to be an object of the update; ; and

said update data transmitting unit is further operable to transmit, to said user terminal, the data for usage right information update that is used for updating the usage

right information identified by the identifier ~~notified by said update requesting unit~~ to the latest usage right information.

11. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 10, wherein said update requesting unit is further operable to request the update by notifying said right management server of the usage rule of the usage right information together with the identifier ~~of the usage right information~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 9, wherein:

 said update requesting unit is further operable to request an update by transmitting the usage right information which is an object of the update to said right management server; and

 said update data transmitting unit is further operable to transmit, to said user terminal, the data for usage right information update that is used for updating the usage right information transmitted from said update requesting unit to the latest usage right information.

13. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 9, wherein:

 the usage right information includes an identifier ~~to identify itself, for identification;~~

 the data for usage right information update includes the identifier of the usage right information which is an object to be updated and data indicating details of the update; and

 said updating unit is further operable to update the usage right information on the basis of the identifier and the data indicating the details of the update that are included in the data for usage right information update.

14. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 9, wherein:

the usage right information includes an identifier to identify itself, for identification;

the data for usage right information update includes the identifier of the usage right information which is an object to be updated and information indicating an updated usage rule; and

said updating unit is further operable to read, from said usage right information storing unit, the usage right information identified by the identifier included in the data for usage right information update, and to update the usage right information by replacing the usage rule of the read usage right information with the updated usage rule included in the data for usage right information update.

15. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 9, wherein:

the data for usage right information update includes updated usage right information; and

said updating unit is further operable to read, from said usage right information storing unit, the usage right information corresponding to the updated usage right information included in the data for usage right information update, and to update the usage right information by replacing the read usage right information with the updated usage right information included in the data for usage right information update.

16. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 9, wherein:

the usage right information includes an identifier to identify itself, for identification;

the data for usage right information update includes the identifier of the usage right information which is an object to be updated and additional data which should be linked to the usage right information that is the object to be updated; and

said updating unit is further operable to read, from said usage right information storing unit, the usage right information identified by the identifier included in the data

~~for usage right information update~~, and to update the usage right information by linking the additional data to the read usage right information.

17. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 9,

wherein:

the usage right information includes an identifier ~~to identify itself, for identification;~~

the data for usage right information update includes the identifier of the usage right information which is an object to be updated and additional license information indicating a usage rule to be added; and

said updating unit is further operable to read, from said usage right information storing unit, the usage right information identified by the identifier ~~included in the data for usage right information update~~, and to update the usage right information by adding the usage rule indicated by the additional license information ~~included in the data for usage right information update~~ to the usage rule indicated by the read usage right information.

18. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 9,

wherein:

said usage right information issuing unit is further operable to affix a digital signature to the usage right information, and to transmit the usage right information together with the ~~obtained affixed signature text~~ to said user terminal; and

said update data transmitting unit is further operable to affix a digital signature to the data for usage right information update, and to transmit the data for usage right information update together with the ~~obtained affixed signature text~~ to said user terminal.

19. (Currently Amended) The digital content distribution system according to Claim 1,

wherein said update requesting unit is further operable to obtain, from said right management server, data for usage right information update that is used for updating the usage right information stored in said usage right information storing unit when requesting said right management server for an update.

20. (Currently Amended) A right management server of a digital distribution system which comprisescomprising:

said right management server and a user terminal that are connected via a transmission line, wherein said right management server includes:

a usage right information issuing unit operable to issue usage right information indicating a usage rule of content which is a digital copyrighted work to said user terminal;

an update information notifying unit operable to notify said user terminal of update information for identifying a timing at which said user terminal is to access said right management server and request regarding necessity of updating of the usage right information issued to said user terminal; and

an update data transmitting unit operable to transmit, to said user terminal, data for usage right information update that is—is used for updating the usage right information held by said user terminal to a latest usage right information when receiving a request to update the usage right information from said user terminal.

21. (Currently Amended) A user terminal of a digital distribution system which comprisescomprising:

a right management server and said user terminal that are connected via a transmission line, wherein said user terminal includes:

a content storing unit operable to store content which is a digital copyrighted work;

a usage right information storing unit operable to store usage right information issued by said right management server;

a using unit operable to use the content ~~stored in said content storing unit in~~ accordance with a usage rule indicated by the usage right information stored in said usage right information storing unit;

an update requesting unit operable to identify a timing at which to request updating of the usage right information, in accordance with update information notified by said right management server, regardless of the usage rule indicated by the usage right

information, and to request, at the timing, said right management server to update the usage right information stored in said usage right information storing unit, ~~in accordance with update information notified by said right management server;~~ and

an updating unit operable to receive data for usage right information update that is transmitted from said right management server, to read the usage right information corresponding to the received data for usage right information update from said usage right information storing unit, and to update the read usage right information, ~~and wherein~~

~~said using unit is operable to use the content stored in said content storing unit in accordance with a usage rule indicated by the updated read usage right information.~~

22. (Currently Amended) A right management method used by a digital content distribution system comprising a right management server and a user terminal which are connected via a transmission line, said right management method comprising:

~~a usage right information issuing step of issuing usage right information indicating a usage rule of content which is a digital copyrighted work to the user terminal;~~

~~an update information notifying step of notifying the user terminal of update information regarding necessity or for identifying a timing at which said user terminal is to access said right management server and request updating of the usage right information issued to the user terminal; and~~

~~an update data transmitting step of transmitting, to the user terminal, data for usage right information update that is used for updating the usage right information held by the user terminal to a latest usage right information when receiving a request to update the usage right information from the user terminal.~~

23. (Currently Amended) A content usage method used by a digital content distribution system comprising a right management server and a user terminal which are connected via a transmission line, said content usage method comprising:

~~a usage right information obtaining step of obtaining usage right information issued by the right management server;~~

a ~~using step~~ of using content which is a digital copyrighted work, in accordance with a usage rule indicated by the obtained usage right information;

~~an update requesting step of requesting identifying a timing at which to request updating of the usage right information, in accordance with update information notified by the right management server, regardless of the usage rule indicated by the usage right information, and to request, at the timing, the right management server to update the usage right information, in accordance with update information notified by the right management server; and~~

~~an updating step of receiving data for usage right information update that is transmitted from the right management server and of updating the usage right information corresponding to the received data for usage right information update,~~

wherein in said using step, the content is used in accordance with a usage rule indicated by the updated usage right information.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program recorded on a computer-readable recording medium of for a said right management server of a digital content distribution system comprising said right management server and a user terminal which are connected via a transmission line, said computer program for causing a computer to execute at least said steps of the right management method described in of Claim 22.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program recorded on a computer-readable recording medium of for a said user terminal of a digital content distribution system comprising a right management server and said user terminal which are connected via a transmission line, said computer program for causing a computer to execute at least said steps of the content usage method described in of Claim 23.